



ARMY BRAC OFFICE HAMILTON ARMY AIRFIELD

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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RAB Responsibilities

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), is an advisory board made up of interested and concerned community members who reflect the diverse interests of the local community as well as representatives of state, local, and federal agencies. The RAB is designed to serve as a forum for the exchange of information between the Army and Navy and the community regarding those restoration activities presently underway, as well as those planned for future studies and remediation.

The Hamilton RAB meets quarterly. **The next RAB meeting is April 13, 2005.**

To receive further information regarding the RAB, community involvement, environmental cleanup at Hamilton, or to be added to the Hamilton RAB mailing list, please contact: **Joy Lanzaro (415) 883-6386.**

Upcoming Meetings

The next RAB Meeting will be held at the Novato Police Station Meeting Room on Wednesday, April 13, 2005, 7 p.m.

For More Information

Army BRAC Environmental Office

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Information Repositories

Army BRAC Environmental Office (Call for an appointment)

Marin County Public Library, Novato Branch
1720 Novato Boulevard, Novato, CA 94947
tel: (415) 897-1141

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

H A M I L T O N A R M Y A I R F I E L D

COASTAL SALT MARSH PROJECTS COMPLETED

ARMY PROTECTS ENDANGERED MICE DURING EXCAVATION

Before any heavy equipment was allowed into the Coastal Salt Marsh work areas, the Army contractors “shoo-ed” mice out of the area, hand-cleared vegetation, and installed fabric fencing to prevent small animals from re-entering the work zones.

During the process of herding mice out of the excavation zones, the biologists were surprised to find mice and their nests under piles of debris. Apparently, the mice use driftwood and other incidental flotsam as protective cover.

Thirty-one salt marsh harvest mice were hand-carried to safe territory during the clean-up efforts within the Coastal Salt Marsh this winter. Five mice scurried away from the activity sites on their own and two were found deceased.

The two fatalities were sent to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for forensic analysis. The forensic work will provide the Service with valuable baseline information about the species.

Pickleweed Removal



Clean-up in the Coastal Salt Marsh began on December 14, 2004 with the hand-removal of pickleweed. Pickleweed is dense vegetation that covers most of the Coastal Salt Marsh

and provides food and shelter to several marsh species. The pickleweed was hand-cleared to reduce the chances of harm to the endangered mice or birds in the vicinity. After the pickle-



A salt marsh harvest mouse being relocated out of the work area by the onsite biologist

The two Hamilton mice will be the Service's very first entries of salt marsh harvest mice to the their Standards Collection. The collection provides reference information which will help the Service in the future protection of wildlife.

weed was cleared, a barrier fence was installed to prevent the animals from entering the work area where heavy machinery was moving around.

Excavated sites were backfilled with clean soil. Re-growth of pickleweed is expected at these sites.

The Army will monitor the pickleweed re-growth and take necessary actions to ensure that the habitat grows back.

Spring 2005

Former Sewage Treatment Plant Pipeline & Outfall

It took approximately three hours for Army contractors to remove 450 feet of pipeline that crossed the Coastal Salt Marsh. The pipe originated at the Former Sewage Treatment Plant and was used to carry treated wastewater to the bay. The location where the pipeline emptied into the bay, referred to as the “outfall,” was excavated for soil containing metals and pesticides with levels above the cleanup goals. The pipeline itself was removed since it was not flushed when it was retired and could be a potential source of contamination.



EAST LEVEE CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS DISPOSAL AREA (ELCDDA) & BURN PIT

The ELCDDA and burn pit areas were in use circa 1961 as a final destination for construction debris. In January 2005, the Army excavated the construction debris and soil containing metals above the cleanup goals.

In order to allow heavy equipment access to the ELCDDA and Burn Pit, a road was constructed next to the wetland project’s dredge pipeline. The pipeline was built to transport dredge material for wetland construction. The road will remain in place for pipeline access during the wetland restoration project.

Once the debris was removed from the ELCDDA, the area was graded down to an elevation suitable for pickleweed growth, thereby potentially gaining an acre of endangered species habitat.

The road was constructed next to the pipeline to allow heavy excavation equipment access to the site. The road will remain in place for the duration of the wetland restoration project to maintain the pipeline.



Area 14 Site

While researching aerial photos for the Archives Search Report (ASR, USACE 2001), a patch of the Coastal Salt Marsh was identified as being dissimilar to the surrounding topography. The circular patch was located near the runway extension. The area was referred to as Area 14 in the ASR. Area 14 was sampled on a 100-foot grid to determine whether or not chemical releases had occurred here. Additional sampling was conducted to define the area of petroleum products at levels above cleanup goals. The site was excavated beginning on December 22, 2004. The site was backfilled on January 3, 2005. It was graded to recreate the general contours that existed previously, allowing tidal and rain waters to drain in a similar fashion as before.

UPCOMING ARMY BRAC ACTIVITIES

- Sampling the soil removed from the Coastal Salt Marsh
- Soil that requires Class I Landfill disposal will be hauled offsite in the Spring
- Sampling of three inboard areas: The Firing Ranges, Revetments, and South Runway DDT Hotspot



SCRAPING FOR CLEAN BACKFILL

The clean soil that was used for backfill in the Coastal Salt Marsh was obtained from a site about 1000 ft inboard of the levee. This location coincides with the path of the future wetland’s main water channel.

The soil at this location was used because it had the cleanliness and grain size to fit the surrounding soil in the marsh.

Pictured here, a crane and an excavator were used to load soil on to the dump-truck. The dump-truck then carried the soil to the excavation sites.



BOAT DOCK

The Boat dock /launch was built in the 1930s for water rescue emergencies such as an aircraft crash in the bay. Boat maintenance activities at the dock are the probable source of metals in the mud beneath the dock. A portion of the structure was dismantled on January 10, 2005 to access the mud beneath. Excavation occurred on the 15th – 17th. The area was backfilled on January 27th and 28th.

HIGH MARSH PLAIN & HIGH MARSH GRID



High Marsh Backfilled

High Marsh Plain

The High Marsh Plain is a 2-acre area within the Coastal Salt Marsh that had “hotspots” of contamination above action goals. The Army excavated soil containing metals, petroleum, pesticides, and PCBs beginning December 29, 2004. The excavation was backfilled and graded to recreate the previously existing drainage pattern for tidal and rainwaters. Backfill was completed on January 14, 2005.

High Marsh Grid

The High Marsh Grid is a 3-acre area north of the High Marsh Plain with similar characteristics. The Army excavated soil containing metals, petroleum, pesticides, and PCBs with levels above the cleanup goals. The excavation began on January 10, 2005. Backfilling began January 25th and the site was graded to recreate the previously existing drainage pattern for tidal and rainwaters.

ODD & HISTORIC ODD

OUTFALL DRAINAGE DITCH (ODD)

Because the airfield is below sea level, stormwater is pumped from the inboard area over the levee. The ODD receives water from the water collection and pumping system. Before excavation could begin, a flap valve had to be installed to temporarily dam the ditch to control the flow of tidal water. It was quite a task to accomplish in the middle of the rainy season!

The Army excavated soil containing metals, petroleum, pesticides, and PCBs with levels above the cleanup goals. Excavation occurred January 19 – 21, 2005.

HISTORIC OUTFALL DRAINAGE DITCH (HODD)

The Historic ODD runs from the ELCDDA (see previous page) toward the boat dock. The channel has not been used to carry storm-water since the 1950’s. The Army excavated the channel and removed soil containing metals and pesticides with levels above the cleanup goals.

Excavation began and was completed in one day on January 18, 2005.



Historic Outfall Drainage Ditch